

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Barry Young at 650 326 2701 on 3/11/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 16, 24, 44 and 50 are amended as shown below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use by a storage switch in a storage network, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a plurality of packets by the storage switch, wherein the plurality of packets includes data packets and storage control packets for controlling storage management and routing of data packets between an initiator and a storage device;

(b) classifying at a classifier the packets as data packets or storage control packets, wherein the storage control packets comprise [comprising] connection requests or storage management requests;

(c) communicating the storage control packets to a first device that controls the storage switch using said storage control packets and the data packets to a second device, and

wherein said step of classifying is performed without buffering of the packets.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for use by a storage switch in a storage network, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving a plurality of packets by the storage switch;
- (b) classifying at a classifier the packets into data packets and storage control packets, wherein the storage control packets comprise [comprising] connection requests or storage management requests for controlling storage management and routing of data packets between an initiator and a storage device;
- (c) communicating to a CPU only those packets classified as storage control packet;
- (d) controlling the storage switch by said CPU and said storage control packets; and

wherein said step of classifying is performed without buffering of the packets.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a storage network, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving a plurality of packets by a linecard of a storage switch that routes data packets between an initiator and a storage device in the network;

(b) identifying, by an identifier unit on the linecard, each packet as a data packet or a storage control packet, wherein the storage control packets comprise [comprising] a connection request or a storage management request for controlling storage management and routing of data packets between the initiator and the storage device;

(c) communicating storage control packets to a CPU on the linecard, the CPU controlling the storage switch for said storage management and routing;

(d) communicating data packets to a second device for further processing;

and

wherein said identifying is performed without buffering.

44. (Currently Amended) A linecard for use in a storage switch in a storage network for routing data packets between an initiator and a storage device, the linecard comprising

a CPU;

a classifier, the classifier coupled to the CPU, the classifier designed to classify packets without buffering as data packets and as storage control packets, wherein the storage control packets comprise [comprising] connection requests or storage management requests for controlling storage management and routing of data packets between the initiator and the storage device, and to communicate the storage

control packets for controlling the storage switch to the CPU and the data packets to a second device.

50. (Currently Amended) A switch for use in a storage network, the switch comprising:

a linecard, comprising:

a first device;

classification means for classifying packets, without buffering, into data packets and into control packets, wherein the control packets comprise [comprising] connection requests or storage management requests for controlling storage management and routing of data packets between an initiator and a storage device, and for communicating the control packets to the first device for controlling said switch and communicating the data packets to a second device.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In claims 1, 16, 24, 44 and 50, the prior art does not disclose classifying packets as data packets or storage control packets, wherein the storage control packets comprising connection requests or storage management requests.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272 3092. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on 571 272 3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hanh Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2416